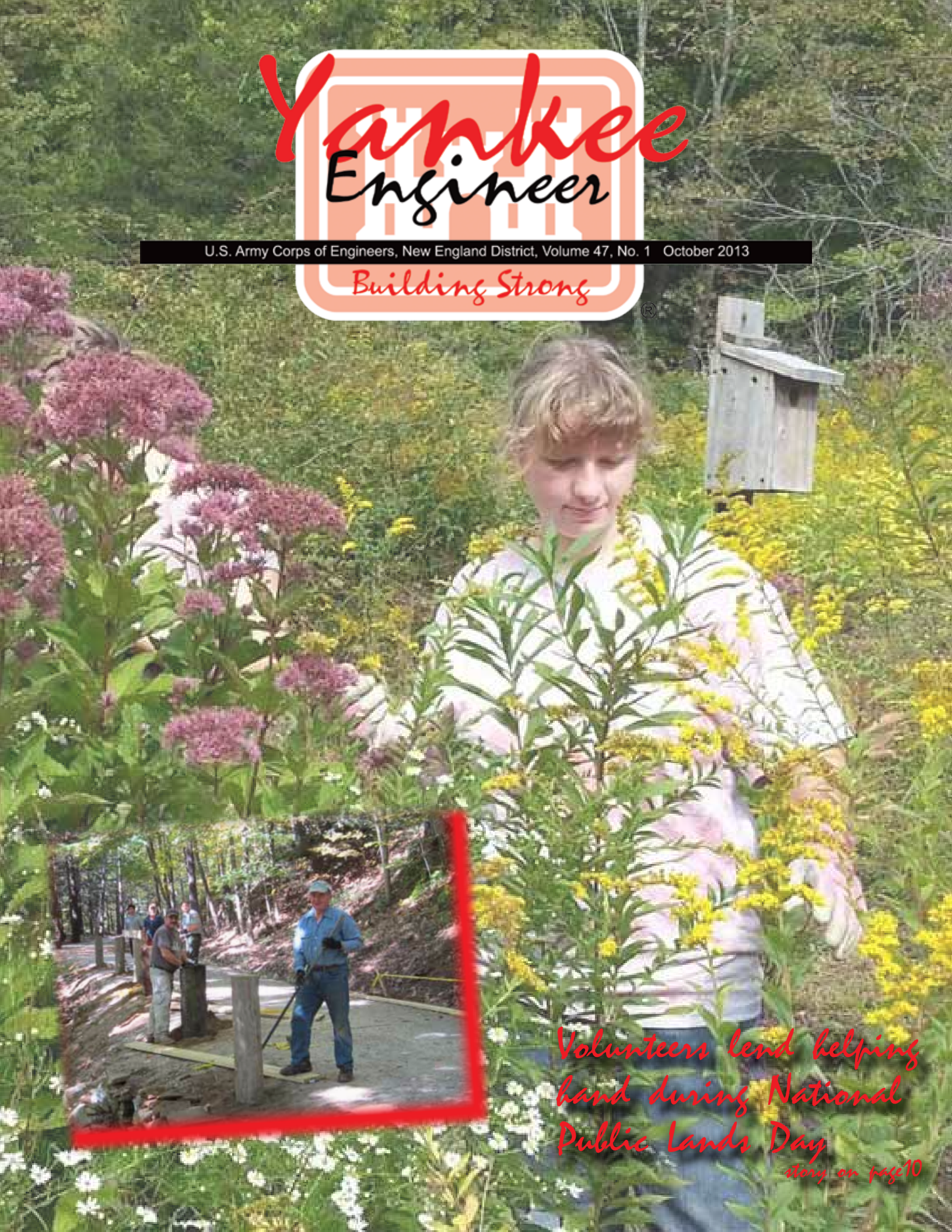


# Yankee Engineer

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Volume 47, No. 1 October 2013

*Building Strong*



*Volunteers lend helping  
hand during National  
Public Lands Day*

*story on page 10*

# Yankee Voices

Donna Vondle, Victor Ranfos and Greg Harlan



## *Congratulations*

... to **Angela E. Frisino**, Engineering/Planning who has been selected as the Employee of the Month for August 2013, by the NAE, WE Association. Nominated by Gary Lacroix and David Descoteaux, Frisino received the honor in recognition of her work in the area of energy sustainability.

## *Two former Chiefs of Engineers pass away*

...Sympathy to the family of **Lt. Gen. (Retired) John (Jack) W. Morris II**, the 44th Chief of Engineers, who passed away Aug. 21.

...Sympathy to the family of **LTG Elvin R. (Vald) Heiberg III**, the 46th Chief of Engineers, passed away Sept. 27.

## *Words worth repeating*

"It takes less time to do a thing right than to explain why you did it wrong."

- **Henry Wadsworth Longfellow**

## *District's Emergency/Inclement Weather Program is online for the 2013/2014 season*

The Inclement Weather Program is up and running for this Winter/Spring Season. Please call 978-318-8888 for the latest District closing and/or delayed-opening information.

Closing or delayed opening information is also available by logging in online to Channel 7 News (WHDH-TV) at <http://www.whdh.com>. WHDH also has another very convenient option: "Snow Day Alert." By registering with the news station online, they will send a message to your cell phone if the District has any closing/delay information. To take advantage of this option, go to <http://whdhstore.hipcricket.com> and follow the directions.

District Team members can also listen to following radio stations to receive closings or delays: WOKQ (97.5 FM), WPKQ (103.7 FM), The SHARK (102.1 FM) or WCAP (980 AM).

Additionally, our Inclement Weather Program has expanded into the world of Social Media where all announcements regarding closings or delays will also appear on the New England District's Facebook Page as well as Twitter "tweets" to followers. If you are a Facebook member you are invited to become a "fan" of the New England District. If you are a subscriber to Twitter you must "follow" the CorpsNewEngland to receive tweets.

Those links are:

On Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CorpsNewEngland>

On Twitter: <http://twitter.com/CorpsNewEngland>

Lastly, it should be noted that this does not affect essential and emergency personnel and those scheduled to work at home on days where weather events affect NAE operations. Further, all closing or delay announcements are Concord Park Headquarters only. The Operations, Construction, and Regulatory Chiefs have been delegated the authority to make inclement weather decisions for the Basin, Resident, and Regulatory offices throughout New England by utilizing individual inclement weather plans and notification procedures for each field office (this is not a change to the current NAE policy).

Wallet cards with the Inclement Weather Information will be distributed through inner office mail in coming weeks. Anyone who does not receive one through normal distribution and would like one can stop by the Public Affairs Office.



# Commander's Corner:

## Advancing - again - into an unpredictable future!

by Col. Charles P. Samaris  
District Commander



"The companies that survive the longest are the ones that work out what they, uniquely, can give to the world."

~ Charles Handy  
Author/expert in organizational behavior and management

New England Team:

Welcome to Fiscal Year 2014!

Yep, it's been a rather rough start.

But, your resilience is evident as you strive to deliver the very best results possible to our partners and stakeholders. And, the entire team – through good stewardship - is clearly maximizing available resources to get the most bang for the buck. Regardless of the shutdown's ultimate direction or duration, the bottom line is that the federal financial picture is blurry...at best. So, the stewardship best practices and lessons learned over this past year should continue to guide our strategic and tactical business planning.

And trust me, I know...shutdown meetings, number crunching, information analyzing...after a while, it becomes a drag. It's easy to get into a rut. The rut is a dangerous place. As we navigate the rut, we think we're busy keeping pace with milestones and schedules. But a smart person once related this: "If you think you're navigating the rut and keeping pace...you're not. If you're just navigating the rut, then organizationally you're at a standstill. Which, in reality, means you're moving backward. Remember, if you're not moving forward, you're moving backward. Because while you're standing still, someone's moving past you...we ALL must constantly advance." GREAT ADVICE!!

So, to overcome the rut, I personally focus on the mission, the vision, where we are, and where we want to go. So, let's all REFOCUS and ADVANCE into FY14...our operational framework continues as such...

**MISSION:** New England District delivers superior engineering solutions and results to the people of New England and the nation...because they deserve our very best.

**VISION:** To be a model USACE District and a trusted public servant to the people of New England and the na-

tion - 1) Be Professional, Values-based, Ethical Leaders and Experts; 2) Deliver Superior Results, Under Budget, Ahead Of Schedule.

### Values

**Character:** Live Army Values

**Passion:** Be a Catalyst

**Service:** Nation Before Self

**Results:** Quality, Cost, Time

### Guiding Principles

1. Develop principled leaders
2. Grow credentialed technical experts
3. Empower a 100% engaged workforce
4. Hire great people with our values
5. Build strong partnerships
6. Implement effective systems
7. Integrate emerging technologies
8. Steward federal resources

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'New England District delivers superior engineering solutions and results to the people of New England and the nation...because they deserve our very best.'

- Col. Charles Samaris

New England District Commander

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Page 4 highlights our overarching strategic framework... integrating priorities from headquarters to division to District. As you review them, please...keep it simple. You'll see that what you do every single day contributes directly or indirectly to achieving the priorities of the vertical team. And every time you discover a way to make a process more efficient, or a product more effective, or a project of higher quality...you directly contribute to achieving our priorities, advancing the organization, and achieving the Chief of Engineers' intent!

So, take your mind off the news, and invest some mental energy in the future. Where do you - your section, your branch, your division - want to be? Think about it...and then...take action. Advance!

Essays!

"The point is not to look for home runs every time out, but to build a culture of improvement."

~ Dr. Bob Nelson



# Army Corps of Engineers Campaign Plan aligns for success in an uncertain future

by Col. Charles Samaris  
New England District Commander

## USACE TOP 14

### Goal 1 – Support The Warfighter

1. Action 1a3: Integrate USACE and its capabilities
2. Action 1b1: Establish MILCON Lifecycle Management Framework
3. Action 1c1: Achieve Federal targets within USACE operations
4. Action 1d2: Improve USACE partnership and outreach

### Goal 2 – Transform Civil Works

5. Action 2a1: Implement planning modernization process
6. Action 2b1: Implement a watershed-based budget development process
7. Action 2c1: Improve Methods of Delivery
8. Action 2d1: Implement the USACE infrastructure strategy

### Goal 3 – Reduce Disaster Risks

9. Action 3a1: Maintain and improve readiness with contingency capabilities
10. Action 3d1: Engage to apply USACE capabilities in Interagency strategic objectives

### Goal 4 – Prepare For Tomorrow

11. Action 4a2: Improve knowledge creation/sharing and technology transfer
12. Action 4b1: Improve integrated strategic engagement and communication
13. Action 4c2: Improve USACE governance processes and systems
14. Action 4d2: Increase STEM and WW initiatives

## NAD TOP 6

**1. Implement Planning Modernization process:** *Support Civil Works*

*transformation and fast-track planning modernization while continuing the Hurricane Sandy Recovery efforts in the NAD Region (Supports UCP 2a1, 2b1)*

**2. Shape the workforce of the future:** *Balancing workload and workforce capacities and capabilities to build an enduring, resilient team (Supports UCP 4d1 & 2c2)*

**3. Improve regional business, acquisition and governance processes:** *Streamline processes to create a dynamic, efficient Regional Business Center (Supports UCP 4c2)*

**4. Integrate USACE and its capabilities into COCOMs:** *Increase COCOM Commanders understanding of how USACE supports their missions and can assist them in achieving their goals (Supports UCP 1a3)*

**5. Achieve federal energy security and sustainability targets within USACE operations:** *Lead the Nation in fostering new and innovative energy and sustainability technologies and practices (Supports UCP 1c1)*

**6. Maintain and improve Readiness with contingency capabilities:** *Continue to prepare, plan and train our teams to respond to any natural disasters and provide relief for impacted citizens (Supports UCP 3a1)*

## NAE Strategic Imperatives/Lines of Effort

**1. Develop Leaders and Experts (UCP 1, 2, 3, 4) (NAD 2) - ENDSTATE:** A multi-skilled, complementary force of trained leaders and experts – instilled with accountability and urgency – able to accomplish today's mission; postured to adapt to and accomplish tomorrow's mission. Inculcate a strong culture of

improving our record in all three legs of the construction tool – quality, cost, and time.

**2. Streamline Business Processes (UCP 2a1, 2c1, 4c2) (NAD 1, 3) - ENDSTATE:** Fully engaged PDT's that publish and adhere to simple PMPs, plan and execute IAW a small toolkit of published SOPs, identify and implement best industry practices, and communicate/collaborate transparently to deliver superior results ahead of schedule, under budget, and of superior quality...always.

**3. Build Effective Communication Systems (UCP 1d2, 3d1, 4b1) (NAD 2, 6) - ENDSTATE:** A culture of transparent 360 communication across the organization supported by a published and implemented 360 Strategic Communication/ Relationship Plan that strengthens internal and external relationships to deliver superior results.

**4. Advance Capabilities and Organization (UCP 1a3, 3a1, 4c2) (NAD 1, 3, 4, 6) - ENDSTATE:** A clearly defined set of primary district core capabilities (niches) and secondary capacities (surges), and a flat, lean, adaptable, affordable organizational structure designed to accomplish today's mission and postured to effectively respond to an evolving future district and regional workload.

**5. Steward Infrastructure and Advance Technology (UCP 1c1, 2d1) (NAD 5) - ENDSTATE:** A master plan – with executable COAs – to posture the district with the right resources to effectively perform the district core capabilities, derived through analyzed inventories of real and organizational property – required versus on-hand.



Westville Dam

USACE Photo

## *Westville Dam gets safety upgrade from oversight group*

After extensive geotechnical testing and an indepth technical evaluation, The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Dam Safety Senior Oversight Group has determined that Westville Lake Dam in Southbridge, Mass., can be safely operated at minimal risk to the public. The Dam Safety Action Classification (DSAC) has therefore been reduced from DSAC I (Very High Urgency) to DSAC IV (Low Urgency).

Westville Lake Dam is located in south-central Massachusetts on the Quinebaug River, 1.3 miles west of the center of the town of Southbridge. The dam provides flood risk mitigation for several communities along the Quinebaug River, including Southbridge and Dudley in Mass., and Putnam, Danielson, Jewett City, and Norwich in Conn. The dam is part of a network of six dams constructed and maintained by the Corps of Engineers to relieve the effects of flooding along the major rivers of the Thames River Basin.

The District had been concerned that Westville Lake Dam may have had significant foundation and abutment seepage issues. A multidisciplinary team was assembled to fully evaluate the condition of the dam. In addition, subsurface explorations were conducted in 2008, 2009 and 2011. Instrumentation was also installed in the foundation to monitor water pressures during pool events.

The results of these investigations and studies deter-

mined that while there is some seepage passing through the fractured bedrock in the foundation below the dam, the seepage can safely pass through the foundation with minimal risk to the integrity of the embankment.

While the studies conducted to date indicate that Westville Lake Dam can be safely operated with minimal risk to the public, the District will continue with its robust operations and maintenance program, and will actively monitor the dam during high pool events for signs of distress.

Westville Lake Dam is a rolled earth fill embankment with rock slope protection, and is 560 feet long and 78 feet high. It has prevented an estimated \$48.8 million in flood damages since it was placed in operation in 1962. The reservoir area offers recreational opportunities, including picnicking, fishing, hunting, canoeing, boating, and nature study and annually attracts more than 55,000 visitors. Under normal conditions an 11-foot deep, 23-acre conservation pool is maintained behind the dam.

Under full pool conditions during flood events the reservoir has a maximum depth of about 55 feet and a surface area of 913 acres. The drainage area of the reservoir is 99.5 square miles.

The New England District is committed to working closely with the affected public, and each local municipality, state and federal agency that may have an interest in this project.



## Milfoil treatment at Franklin Falls Dam, Hopkinton and Drew Lakes

**Story and photo by Martin Curran  
Merrimack River Basin**

This past summer, the Hopkinton-Everett Lakes Project treated 79 acres of aquatic infestation from variable milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*). The treatment areas included Drew Lake, Canal No. 2 and Elm Brook Park Cove. Franklin Falls Dam project also treated three acres on the Pemigewasset River for variable milfoil. Pre-treatment surveys were completed at both projects by Amy Smagula, Exotic Species Coordinator for the N.H. Department of Environmental Services, with assistance from the Merrimack River Basin Environmental Compliance Coordinator and project staff.

Pre-treatment surveys confirm the location, level of infestation and changes in water depth throughout the area of concern. The location of survey parameters are documented using Geographic Positioning System (GPS) to ensure spatial accuracy and treatment maps are prepared in a Geographical Information System (GIS) platform. This procedure ensures that information collected in the pre-treatment survey coincides with the suggested treatment locations mentioned in the permit application submitted earlier to the N.H. Department of Agriculture and, if not, treatment locations are adjusted accordingly. Under New Hampshire Regulations adjustments can only be made within areas included in the permit application.

Pre-treatment surveys also include dissolved oxygen (DO) and water temperature that can serve as a base line for detecting DO issues associated with the effects of treatment in the post-treatment surveys. This especially pertained to Drew Lake because the entire lake was treated which could pose a greater likelihood for DO issues.

As part of the permit requirement, post-treatment DO readings were

taken at pre-determined locations on the lake and canal that coincided with the GPS locations of the pre-treatment reading sites.

The post treatment survey was conducted on a weekly basis for a six-week period following treatment and comparisons were made with the pre-treatment DO test results and the results showed no apparent influence of the treatment on DO. Though when the water column stratified the hypolimnion (bottom water column) areas did show some reduced oxygen concentrations, that is normal at Drew Lake and Canal No. 2 as compared with years of no treatment.

Aquatic invasive species pose a grave threat to our lakes and rivers. Most aquatic invasive species spread rapidly and usually there is only a short time frame when a rapid response treatment can eradicate any threat from them. Once established aquatic invasive species spread rapidly and from that point on control is the only option.

Control strategies should include a long term management plan that takes an adaptive and integrated management approach on the invasive species. The assessment process should not only consider the effectiveness at killing the invasive species but also consider the recovery rate and the effects on water quality and the aquatic environ-

ment, including native species. To be successful, adaptive and integrated management requires a long term commitment towards monitoring, data collection and an open mind for considering different treatment options when data suggest that a particular treatment option yields ineffective results.

Control attempts for any aquatic invasive species are very expensive propositions and every attempt should be made to understand the effects of any treatment. Nature does not give up its secrets easily and successful management cannot be achieved without monitoring protocols in place.

Both Hopkinton Lake and Franklin Falls Dam projects have Long-Term Variable Milfoil Management Plans prepared by Amy Smagula of NH DES. Each project is a unique resource with a different history and the plans reflect those differences as did the selection of treatment applications.

Drew Lake and Elm Brook Park Cove were treated using the herbicide CleanAmine which uses 2, 4-D as an active ingredient. 2, 4-D is a systemic growth regulator that forces new growth to accelerate causing the plant cells to rupture, thus killing the plant. CleanAmine is a recently approved herbicide in New Hampshire and was applied as a liquid sub-surface treatment using weighted hoses. The



Aquatic Control Technology, Inc. prepares to treat the water for Milfoil.

liquid herbicide is designed to release the active ingredient of 2, 4-D into the water column faster and at higher concentrations with improved results. A liquid application is a lower cost product that uses less chemicals while still providing adequate concentration rates needed to kill the milfoil. Liquid applications are now being recommended for larger area treatments with low levels of turbulence and currents. Drew Lake met the criteria for the liquid selection and the treatment was highly successful.

The milfoil treatment at the Franklin Falls Dam project was delayed because of unpredictable pool fluctuations on the Pemigewasset River. Treatment success requires that an adequate concentrations of active ingredient be present in the water column over a given timeframe (concentration-exposure time or CET) to kill the milfoil. Successful calibration of active ingredient requires knowledge of water depth at the time of application.

The Pemigewasset River also has a faster current which complicates the application of a liquid herbicide which has a much greater possibility of being diluted by the currents before the milfoil has an opportunity to take up the herbicide. Of equal concern is the potential for the herbicide to impact areas outside of the permit boundaries. For these reasons, the Pemigewasset River was treated with the granular herbicide Navigate.

Navigate is also a 2, 4-D herbicide but it is applied in pellet form. The pellets are composed of a clay capsule with the active ingredient sprayed onto the clay carrier. Navigate represents a more expensive delivery system than the liquid application but for the Pemigewasset application it represented the best solution for success.

Both the treatment at the Hopkinton Lake and Franklin Falls projects were completed by Aquatic Control Technology Inc. of Sutton, Mass.



Fox Point Hurricane Barrier in Providence, Rhode Island.

## *Contract awarded for work on Fox Point Hurricane Barrier*

**By Timothy Dugan  
Public Affairs Office**

The Fox Point Hurricane Barrier pump number 3 rehabilitation and restoration of stop gates in Providence, Rhode Island, will be completed under the terms of a \$1,307,382 contract issued by the New England District.

Work will be accomplished by Chas G. Allen, Inc., of Barre, Mass. The contract was awarded on Aug. 12. Work will consist of the disassembly, overhauling of components, reinstallation, and operational testing of pump number 3 to include dewatering of the intake sump.

The overhauling will consist of restoring, repairing, and/or replacing packing, glands, seals, seal retainers, shaft sleeves, cover pipe, bolts, nuts and washers, removal and replacement of existing bearing temperature indicators, rebuilding and alignment of upper guide bearing and motor bearing, removal and replacement of lower guide bearing, realignment and balancing of pump impeller, clean-

ing, examination and metal stitching on the inside surface of the existing defuser, the cleaning and recoating of the exterior surface of the discharge column and backwater closure valve, removal and replacement of the automatic grease injection system, refurbishing the anti-rotation brakes and the hydraulic system for the backwater closures and nondestructive testing of the existing impeller.

Work also will include the restoration of eight existing 12-foot-long by 6.5-foot wide by 1-foot thick metal stop gates upon the completion of the overhauling and rehabilitating of pump number 3. Restoration will include loading, securing and transporting the stop gates to an offsite facility, where they will be cleaned, surface prepped and painted. The project will be managed by the Corps and all work will be accomplished under the supervision of a Corps' Quality Assurance Representative to assure compliance with contract requirements.





Tom Snow (far right) greets his guests prior to the lunch.

Photos by Brian Murphy



Tom and Jennifer Snow cut the retirement cake and serve it for dessert.



Maj. Charles Gray (left) and Mark Wilmes prepare to make presentations to Tom Snow.



Maj. Charles Gray (left) presents Tom Snow with his Achievement Award for Civilian Service.

## North Springfield Lake Project Manager retires

The rolling hills of orange, red and gold behind the Winhall Brook Campground Picnic Pavilion in Vermont made the perfect backdrop to celebrate a long career spent in the area.

Tom Snow, Project Manager, North Springfield Lake in Vermont, retired after 39 years of faithful and dedicated service, most with the New England District's Operations Division. Snow spent five years serving his country in the U.S. Coast Guard during the Vietnam War.

Wanting to wish him the best and celebrate his distinguished career, 35 family, friends, co-workers and retirees gathered at the pavilion for a pig roast and chicken barbecue lunch hosted in Snow's honor, Sept. 29. Guests were encouraged to bring a pot luck dish to share, making the retirement lunch more like a family gathering.

Mark Wilmes, Upper Connecticut River Basin Manager, served as Master of Ceremonies during the official awards presentation portion of the lunch. Other speakers included Jason Farnsworth, Park Ranger at North Springfield Lake and lunch organizer, Greg Hanlon, Reservoir Control, and

Ray Ballantine, retired Townshend Lake Project Manager. Ballantine, or "Uncle Ray" as he is known to the majority of those in attendance, pleased the audience with one of his famous jokes.

After, he remarked on how Snow had excelled as a welder, just like his late father, Ralph Snow, who retired as the Project Manager of Ball Mountain Lake. Ballantine and the later Mr. Snow were very good friends.

The last speaker was Maj. Charles Gray, New England District Deputy Commander, who presented Snow with an Achievement Medal of Civilian Service, a Commander's Coin, a retirement certificate and retirement pin. Snow also received a gift certificate to Cabela's from the audience.

Snow's mother Eleanor, wife Jennifer, and son Jason attended the lunch. His daughter, Melissa was not able to attend, but was there in spirit.

In addition to Ballantine, retirees who attended the lunch to wish Snow well and welcome him into their ranks were Mike Curran, Mike Currie, Phil Morrison and Tim Flynn.



# District contractor receives top award from U. S. Small Business Administration

**By Evamarie D'Antuono,  
Deputy of Small Business and  
Ann Marie R. Harvie,  
Public Affairs Office**

One of New England District's small business contractors recently received a prestigious honor in recognition of their hard work and commitment in growing into a successful small business company.

TANTARA Corporation of Worcester, Mass., was named the 2013 Small Business Prime Contractor of the Year for Region I by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). The company received the honor during an awards presentation held at Fenway Park, Boston, Mass., in June. Eva Marie D'Antuono, New England District's Deputy for Small Business and nominator of the award, attended the ceremony with TANTARA Corporation's CEO Dawn Dearborn and several other members of her company. Dearborn received the award from former U.S. Small Business Administration's Administrator, Karen Mills.

The criterion for consideration for the award is stringent. Nominees must have performed exceptionally well in the following categories: overall management, financial strength, labor relations, customer interface, technical capabilities, resource utilization, cost preference, deliver performance and exceptional results.

In addition to meeting or exceeding all of the criteria, TANTARA Corporation's nomination package contained over a dozen letters of commendation and high-rated performance evaluations from very satisfied clients. "Tantara is an example of the vision SBA had for small businesses in establishing the

8(a) Business Development Program," said D'Antuono.

TANTARA Corporation provides environmental and heavy civil construction and remediation services along the Eastern Seaboard to clients that include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the



Photo provided by SBA  
Karen Mills, former Administrator for the SBA stands with Dawn Dearborn, CEO of TANTARA Corporation, after congratulating her on TANTARA's award.

U.S. Navy, the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Air Force, the Air National Guard, the National Park Service, as well as numerous municipal, private-sector commercial, utility and institutional organizations.

Since Dearborn founded the company in 2000, TANTARA Corporation has grown from two employees to twenty employees and has evolved from a supporting subcontractor to a prime contractor, winning many competitive contract awards nationally.

Jim Morocco, New England District Resident Engineer, worked with the company on a repair project for Patertndam Bridge in Holland, Mass. "All

materials and quality met or exceeded all contract requirements," he said.

TANTARA Corporation also worked on a sediment removal project at Union Village Dam in Vermont, even in the face of Hurricane Irene in August 2011. "The dewatering area and crane staging area were submerged for weeks, the haul road was washed out and all large equipment was needed elsewhere to repair roads and storm damage," said Christine Johnson-Battista, Deputy Chief of Construction Division. "TANTARA Corporation was able to get the crane back to the site. The contractor worked in more water and colder weather than anticipated. Still, TANTARA Corporation was able to excavate all 4,100 cubic yards by December 2011."

For many years, TANTARA Corporation has provided service on many New England District Projects to include erosion repairs at Edward MacDowell Lake Dam in New Hampshire, Pownal Tannery Superfund Site in Vermont, Eastern Woolen Mill Superfund Site in Maine, remediation work at the former Fort Devens in Massachusetts and many more.

Although receiving the 2013 Small Business Prime Contractor of the Year Award for Region I is the latest honor bestowed upon the company, it is not TANTARA Corporation's first. The Initiative for a Competitive Inner City (ICIC) and FORTUNE Magazine recognized TANTARA Corporation on the "2013 Inner City 100" fastest-growing urban business list. The company also received The Pacesetters Select 70 Award, ranking as the 15th fastest-growing firm in the region by the Boston Business Journal.



Volunteers show their support for National Public Lands Day at West Hill Dam.

Photo by Tom Petrowska

## *District projects celebrate National Public Lands Day*

Many New England residents took advantage of the nice weekend weather to participate in one of the country's largest volunteering events, National Public Lands Day. Held over the last two weekends in September, Buffumville Lake/Hodges Village, Westville/East Brimfield Lakes, and West Hill Dam, all in Massachusetts, and Black Rock Lake in Connecticut, hosted volunteer

cleanup events at the sites.

West Hill Dam was first to hold their events, hosting 225 volunteers that included seven Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops as well as three Eagle Scouts on Sept. 21. Projects included sealing various planter boxes and rails, top dressing the playground and table pads, removing invasive plants in various areas of the park, planting

trees and plants and repairing part of the lawn all destroyed by flooding, and trail clearing. The three Eagle Scout candidates, with the help of volunteers, had their own projects they lead. They included completing a tree cookie exhibit/bench area trail project; installing a beach glider on the short beach; and completing military memorial benches with picturesframes.

One of National Public Lands Day official sponsors, Toyota, donated tools and other materials to help the West Hill volunteers get their projects completed. The Eagle Scouts also donated the materials for their project.

Team members at Black Rock Lake in Connecticut held their event on Sept. 22. Four Girl Scout volunteers, their two leaders and one additional volunteer joined Park Rangers to improve and winterize Black Rock Lake's native butterfly garden and walking path. Volunteers installed flower bulbs, deadheaded plantings, planted perennials and spread mulch.

East Brimfield/Westville Lake



Volunteers at Black Rock Lake make improvements to the Butterfly Garden.

USACE Photo





Volunteers work to spread and rake out fine gravel along a section of trail.

Photo by Tom Chamberland

Team members and volunteers were able to complete five projects at their sites. Nearly 30 people rolled up their sleeves to pitch in and clean up. At East Brimfield, volunteers installed a drain pipe under the East End side trail that connects the Trolley Trail to the Grand Trunk Trail. Volunteers and team members spread fine gravel both on the Field Loop Trail North and at Lake Siog Pass. At Westville, volunteers and team members installed posts and safety rails along sections of the Grand Trunk Trail. A local farm donated a table full of apples and cider for hungry workers. Other materials and equipment were also donated by various volunteers.

Hodges Village and Buffumville Lake hosted 137 volunteers to complete 15 projects. Work included trail care, bridge construction, invasive plant removal by hand, mulching, bush planting, trash cleanup, fire pit clean out, water sealing, installing concrete footing for the memorial stone, wire brush and paint grills, weeding, trim-

ming, digging out/refilling fish platform across from the shelter and dirt bike maintenance. Volunteers also donated the use of equipment to help accomplish the work.

National Public Lands Day celebrations are time-honored traditions at New England District projects. Some sites, such as Hodges Village and Buffum-

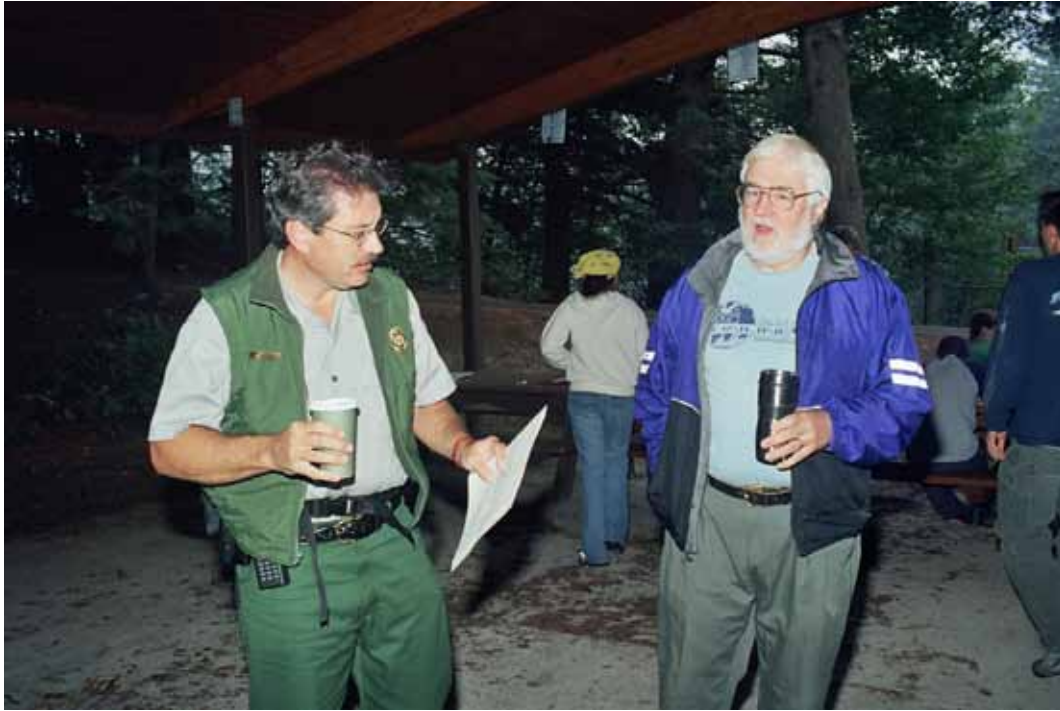
ville Lake, have been celebrating the nation's largest single-day volunteer effort for public lands since its inception 20 years ago. In New England, the volunteers who participated in these events saved the U.S. Government tens of thousands of dollars annually and accomplish projects that may not otherwise be possible without their



Photo by Adam Durando

Volunteers prepare to get their hands dirty at Buffumville Lake during National Public Lands Day event.

# Dredging up the past



Bob Hanacek (from left) and the late David Stiddem discuss plans for the day's National Public Lands Day celebration at Buffumville Lake/Hodges Village Dam in this Sept. 27, 2003 photo. Photo by C.J. Allen

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